

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An audiovisual system which receives audiovisual data and which stores
2 for later playback at least a portion of the audiovisual data comprising a plurality of
3 program locations, each program location representing a starting point of a program
4 segment of one of a plurality of programs, the audiovisual system connectable to a user
5 display, the audiovisual system comprising:

6 a system controller;

7 a storage device to store the portion of the audiovisual data and to play
8 back the stored portion of the audiovisual data;

9 a marking module coupled to the system controller to create metadata in
10 response to a control input for marking the program segments, the metadata
11 comprising the information regarding the program segments of the stored portion
12 of the audiovisual data;

13 a display generator coupled to the system controller to generate a mosaic
14 representation of the program segments of the stored portion of the audiovisual
15 data; and

16 a program selector coupled to the system controller to select a program
17 segment of the stored portion of the audiovisual data in response to a user input,
18 the selected program segment selected based on the information of the metadata,
19 whereby the audiovisual system selectively plays back selected program segments
20 of the stored portion of the audiovisual data starting from selected program
21 locations, thereby enabling a user to jump to and play back selected program
22 segments of the plurality of programs.

1 2. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the audiovisual system
2 comprises a personal video recorder.

1 3. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the storage device comprises
2 a read/write, random-access, non-volatile storage media.

1 4. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises user-
2 generated modifications to pre-existing metadata.

1 5. The audiovisual system of Claim 4, wherein the pre-existing metadata is
2 received by the audiovisual system with the audiovisual data.

1 6. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the metadata is created
2 subsequently to the storing of the stored portion of the audiovisual data by the audiovisual
3 system.

1 7. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, further comprising a preference
2 determination module, and wherein the control input comprises signals from the
3 preference determination module.

1 8. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises
2 information indicating a level of interest by a user in the program segment starting from
3 the corresponding program location.

1 9. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises
2 information indicating a category of the program segment starting from the
3 corresponding program location.

1 10. The audiovisual system of Claim 9, wherein the category comprises the
2 genre of the program segment starting from the corresponding program location.

1 11. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises
2 information indicating an identity of a user.

1 12. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the mosaic representation
2 comprises a plurality of cells, at least one cell comprising a fixed image.

1 13. The audiovisual system of Claim 1, wherein the mosaic representation
2 comprises a plurality of cells, at least one cell comprising a video image.

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1 14. An audiovisual system which receives audiovisual data and which stores
2 for later playback at least a portion of the audiovisual data comprising a plurality of
3 program locations, each program location representing a starting point of a program
4 segment of one of a plurality of programs, the audiovisual system connectable to a user
5 display which provides to a user information regarding the program segments of the
6 stored portion of the audiovisual data, the audiovisual system comprising:

7 a storage device to store the portion of the audiovisual data and to play
8 back the stored portion of the audiovisual data;

9 a grid generator to configure for the user display the information regarding
10 the program segments of the stored portion of the audiovisual data, the
11 information derived from metadata corresponding to the program segments of the
12 stored portion of the audiovisual data, the information provided to the user via the
13 user display in grid format with a plurality of grid elements, each grid element
14 representing a program segment of the stored portion of the audiovisual data; and

15 a program selector to select a grid element that represents a selected
16 program segment of the stored portion of the audiovisual data in response to user
17 input, the selected program segment selected based on the information derived
18 from the metadata, whereby the audiovisual system selectively plays back
19 selected program segments of the stored portion of the audiovisual data starting
20 from selected program locations, thereby enabling a user to jump to and play back
21 selected program segments of the plurality of programs.

1 15. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein at least one grid element
2 comprises an image extracted from the program segment represented by the grid element.

1 16. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein at least one grid element
2 comprises an icon which is representative of the program segment represented by the grid
3 element.

1 17. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein at least one grid element
2 comprises text which is representative of the program segment represented by the grid
3 element.

1 18. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of grid
2 elements comprises grid elements chosen for display based on the metadata of the
3 corresponding program segments of the stored portion of the audiovisual data.

1 19. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of grid
2 elements comprises grid elements chosen for display based on a second user input.

1 20. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of grid
2 elements are organized within the grid format in response to the metadata.

1 21. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of grid
2 elements are organized within the grid format in response to a third user input.

1 22. The audiovisual system of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of grid
2 elements are organized within the grid format based on the program from which each
3 program segment is derived.

1 23. A method of playing back selected portions of stored audiovisual data
2 stored on a storage device, the method comprising:

3 providing stored audiovisual data corresponding to a plurality of programs,
4 each program comprising a plurality of program locations, each program location
5 representing a starting point of a program segment of one of the plurality of
6 programs;

7 creating metadata in response to a control input for marking the program
8 segments, the metadata comprising information regarding the program segments
9 of the stored audiovisual data;

10 displaying to a user the information regarding the program segments of the
11 stored audiovisual data;

12 receiving a user input indicating a selected program segment of one of the
13 plurality of programs, the selected program segment selected based on the
14 information of the metadata; and

15 playing back the selected program segment starting from the
16 corresponding program location of the stored audiovisual data, thereby jumping to
17 and playing back selected program segments of the plurality of programs based on
18 the metadata.

1 24. The method of Claim 23, wherein creating metadata in response to the
2 control input comprises providing pre-existing metadata and modifying the pre-existing
3 metadata.

1 25. The method of Claim 23, wherein creating metadata in response to the
2 control input comprises creating metadata in response to signals from a preference
3 determination module.

1 26. The method of Claim 23, wherein displaying to the user the information
2 regarding the program segments comprises displaying the information in a grid format
3 with a plurality of grid elements, each grid element representing a program segment
4 starting from a corresponding program location of the stored audiovisual data.

1 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein displaying the information in the grid
2 format comprises extracting an image from at least one program segment and displaying
3 the image in the grid element corresponding to the program segment.

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